

The Medical Roundup

by

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Whip-Lash Injury

When an automobile that has stopped at an intersection is hit a tremendous blow in the back by another car, one or more persons in the car that was struck may have had his head jerked backwards so violently as to leave him for the next year or two with a sore and painful neck. Naturally, the violent bending is likely to do some damage to the joints between the head and the upper two or three vertebrae of the neck. Usually, x-rays made of the neck fail to show anything wrong, because no bones have been broken. The x-rays cannot be counted on to show anything wrong with the ligaments around the joints in the upper part of the neck. And yet in many of these cases, the person continues to suffer much for months or a year or two.

In some cases, as when the person always tended to complain much about a small injury, and especially when there is a chance of obtaining damages from an insurance company, there may arise the question, "How much of this pain is due to the person's nervousness or anxiety, and how much is due to an injury?" Sometimes it is hard for the injured person to collect damages from an insurance company because he has nothing to show to substantiate his claim that he suffers pain every day.

I feel sure that many of these people do suffer pain for a year or two after the accident. Why? Because in the first place, I may know that the injured person never was a nervous or complaining or hysterical type of patient. In the second place, I may be impressed by the fact that the person in pain has nothing to gain by remaining ill. There is no possibility of compensation because the person who caused the accident has no money and had no insurance.

In some of these cases of a whip-lash injury, some relief can be obtained by first putting the head in traction and then by wearing, perhaps for months, a special collar which will keep the head from moving about very much.

Inoculation for Asian Flu
Many of our health authorities have been telling people, and particularly older people and people who are ill or ailing in some way or who are not as strong as they used to be, that it would be well for them, before winter comes, to get a couple of injections of anti-influenza vaccine.

For the average strong, healthy person, an attack of Asian flu means four or five days of weakness and misery, but for an old or frail person — perhaps one who has some chronic disease — the attack may bring death. In the last five years, since the Asian flu first appeared in America, it has contributed to the deaths of 90,000 Americans. The flu itself may not kill the patient, but it can weaken his defenses against some other disease. Persons suffering from dia-

betes or from chronic heart disease or kidney disease are particularly vulnerable to the flu; more than half of the deaths in previous epidemics were in people who had these three conditions. An influenza pneumonia, of course, is extremely dangerous, if only because the virus cannot be controlled or killed with an antibiotic. Other people who are in great danger from an attack of winter influenza are those with pulmonary tuberculosis, chronic asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, bronchiectasis or other diseases of the lungs and air passages.

Unfortunately, as yet we have no cure for the Asian flu, after it has attacked someone. Hence, every person over 45 would do well to have injections of the vaccine, and certainly every person over 65 years of age would do well to go to his physician and get this bit of protection. I just had my first "shot," and I did not feel the slightest discomfort.

People are great danger from an attack of winter flu include those suffering from emphysema, one of the common causes for shortness of breath. Dr. Alvarez discusses this disease, five times more common in men than in women, in his booklet, "Pulmonary Emphysema." To obtain your copy send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

Jayne Mansfield, Mate Tell Plans
Hollywood — (UPI) — Actress Jayne Mansfield and her husband, Mickey Hargitay, Thursday scotched rumors they would reconcile by announcing separately they each planned to be married when their divorce becomes final.

The blonde glamour girl told United Press International in an exclusive interview that she will marry an Italian film producer April 7 in Paris.

Muscleman Hargitay's secretary, Russell Ray, told UPI later that Mickey also plans to marry immediately following Jayne's Mexican divorce.

Russell said Hargitay "has been waiting only for her to make up her mind."

Both Miss Mansfield and Hargitay declined to name their new mates, but each said plans were final.

"I cannot name the man I will marry for legal reasons," the actress said. "But everything is settled."

The bridegroom-to-be is Italian producer Enrico Bomba who currently is married to another woman, Miss Mansfield did not deny Bomba was her fiance.

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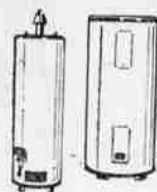
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